



U.S. Department of Justice

Southern District of Indiana

United States Attorney

10 West Market Street

(317) 226-6333

*Suite 2100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

TDD (317) 226-5438

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*FAX NUMBERS:
Criminal (317) 226-6125
Administration (317) 226-5176
Civil (317) 226-5027
FLU (317) 226-6133
OCDETF (317) 226-5953*

CONTACT PERSON:

Mary Bippus, Public Affairs Officer
United States Attorney
(317) 226-6333 - Cell: (317) 590-7928

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**TWENTY-TWO ARRESTED IN
MULTI-STATE
FEDERAL DRUG TRAFFICKING CASE**
Indictment Unsealed This Morning

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced the arrest of 22 cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin traffickers in four states, some of whom were charged in an indictment unsealed today in U.S. District Court in New Albany, Indiana. The street value of drugs seized today exceeds \$3.1 million dollars. Susan W. Brooks stated, "The indictment and these arrests are a huge victory for DEA because law enforcement have taken over \$3 million worth of drugs off the street of southeastern Indiana, Louisville, Atlanta, and Chicago. Based on the amount of cash seized and drugs recovered, we have dismantled a highly productive drug organization." Federal, state and local law enforcement officers in Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia and Illinois participated in the execution of

13 arrest warrants and 13 search warrants related to the investigation on residences in the Southeastern Indiana, Louisville, Kentucky, the Atlanta, Georgia area and Chicago, Illinois. Execution of the warrants resulted in the recovery of approximately 78 kilograms of cocaine, approximately 90 pounds of methamphetamine, almost a kilogram of heroin, approximately \$484,000.00 United States currency, 9 firearms, several money counting machines, and 8 vehicles with hidden compartments

The indictment in the Southern District of Indiana was the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration Offices of Louisville, Atlanta, Indianapolis and Chicago, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Floyd County Sheriff's Department, the Indiana State Police, the Barrow County Georgia Sheriff's Department and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The indictment charges 13 individuals with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and cocaine, and other substantive drug charges. The individuals charged in the indictment are:

- ALFREDO GALINDO, of Chicago, age unknown
- FRANCISCO ORTUNO-VASQUEZ, of Clarksville, age 29
- LUIS SANTIAGO, of Clarksville, age 31
- SALOME ORTUNO-VASQUEZ, of Clarksville
- FELIX ORTUNO-VASQUEZ, of Clarksville, age 33
- ERRICK ABERNATHY, of Louisville, age unknown
- JAMES GRIFFIN, of Louisville, age unknown (fugitive)
- JOSEFINA REDOLLAR, of Clarksville, age 23 (fugitive)
- JUAN ORTUNO, of Clarksville, age 18 (fugitive)

- CLAUDIO ORTUNO, of Clarksville, age 78
- ROBERTO RAMIREZ, of Clarksville, age 28
- RUBICELLA ORTUNO-VASQUEZ, of Clarksville, age unknown
- LUCIA GUERRERO, of Clarksville, age 32

Eight of the defendants were arrested in Indiana and Kentucky, and have appeared today in U.S. District Court in New Albany. GALINDO is in custody in Chicago. Another defendant is in the custody of the Indiana Department of Correction on unrelated charges. Three are fugitives at this time. At least one other person involved in the investigation has been charged by the Prosecuting Attorneys Offices of Floyd County, Indiana. Five persons have been arrested in Barrow County, Georgia in connection with this investigation, and charges are pending. Immigration officials also took into custody 6 individuals who were present at various search sites in Indiana for unrelated immigration violations.

The indictment alleges that the defendants were engaged in a conspiracy to bring cocaine and methamphetamine to Southeastern Indiana and Louisville from both the Chicago and Atlanta areas, for subsequent distribution. The distribution operations occurred from numerous residences and locations in and around the Clarksville, New Albany, Jeffersonville and Louisville areas. Approximately 7 kilos of cocaine, 2 vehicles with hidden compartments, and \$200,000 cash were seized in Chicago. In Atlanta, Georgia, 65 pounds of methamphetamine, 63 kilos of cocaine, \$85,000 in cash, 3 vehicles with hidden compartments, and 3 firearms, including an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, were seized. In Indiana, in the 8300 block of Locust Drive in Charlestown, Indiana, 7 kilos of cocaine were located in a hidden compartment of a vehicle, and 1 kilo of cocaine was located in the residence. In another

vehicle located in the driveway, almost a kilo of heroin was located in the trunk, as well as 22 pounds of methamphetamine. In the 1100 block of Potters Lane, Clarksville, Indiana, approximately \$130,000 cash was located in a hidden compartment in a vehicle in the driveway, and \$65,000 cash was hidden behind a wall in the residence. Two firearms were also seized. In the 100 block of North Randolph, Jeffersonville, Indiana, 2 pounds of methamphetamine were seized from the residence. At 3800 Dunbar, in New Albany, 1 pound of methamphetamine, 2 firearms, and \$4,000 cash were seized.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Matthew P. Brookman, who is prosecuting the case for the government, the defendants, if convicted, face maximum possible prison sentences of life imprisonment.

Initial hearings were held today for 8 defendants before U.S. Magistrate Judges in New Albany. Detention hearings were scheduled for November 28, 2006. All other defendants arrested remain in custody pending detention hearings which have not yet been scheduled.

The indictment is an allegation only, and all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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